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The sun is now fairly up and threatens short existence to the fog. As I approach a bunch of sumac I notice a host of warblers in their tops, and for the first time see the Black-poll and the Yellow-rump Warblers perform their ablutions. The pearly dew is still dropping from the leaves, and this is a sparkling fountain for these birds. They will settle on a petiole and move toward the tip of the leaf, rapidly beating their wings down upon this, causing the dew to fly over them in a fine spray. I watched them for some time. Wondering how effective such a bath might be, I leveled my gun upon one and dropped him. He was wet—not only on the under parts but all over; thus this bathing method proved to be quite an effective one.

Looking down, my eyes fell upon a little rabbit, far from half grown, all bunched up and shivering in the chill moist air, patiently longing for Old Sol's rays to assume a more vertical slant and warm little bunnie's jacket. A little "squeaking" brings up some of our earlier acquaintances, a few angry mewing Catbirds and a Water Thrush.

No other species except a few Goldfinches feeding on the seeds of Ambrosia, are noted until we reach the poplars. Here a crow moves off with alarm and a Flicker keeps his distance. A Cooper's Hawk swoops down among the birds but moves off empty footed, and a flock of noisy Red-wings passes by. A dead member of the row, gives a resting place to a bunch of Wax-wings, who are playing catch with the drowsy insects which are taking their morning flight.

As I pass by the maples on my return trip I notice a Robin in the tip-top of one of the trees sending up his morning prayers. His breast has faded from the red of spring-tide to a more humble hue; but his voice is just as cheery as it was then. I stride on, knowing that breakfast is waiting, and note as the last accession a Black-throated Green Warbler flitting ahead of me as I hasten on to regale the inner man.

One naturally wonders how many of these thousand birds will visit this gem of bird retreats when artful man will have changed the tangle to a park, when lawn supplants the weeds and avenues my path.

PAUL BARTSCH, *Washington, D. C.*

October 9, 1897.

#### NOTES ON SOME OF THE RARER BIRDS OF CHESTER COUNTY, PENNA.

GREAT BLUE HERON, *Ardea herodias*.—A solitary individual frequented

a certain mill-dam on Crum creek, Willestown township, for several summers, being protected by the miller. One of his own boys took advantage of his absence during September, 1896, and shot it. It doubtless was an old bachelor bird returning yearly to its old haunts.

BALD EAGLE, *Haliæetus leucocephalus*.—My latest record is April 7, 1894, when a bird in the first year's plumage was wounded and captured in Tredyffrin township by a local sportsman. It recovered and may still be seen at the old Sorrel Horse tavern.

AMERICAN OSPREY, *Pandion halicetus carolinensis*.—While not an uncommon fall transient, it is a rare spring migrant. A pair was observed in the woods adjacent to a mill pond in Easttown township during the latter part of April, 1893. Although we have no record of it breeding within the county lines, I think it quite probable that this pair would have nested in the neighborhood had not the male been shot. The female lingered about for over a week and then disappeared. The male was shot April 29th and brought to me. His stomach was distended with fish and frogs.

AMERICAN BARN OWL, *Strix pratincula*.—Two adults and three well developed young observed by a friend on the evening of August 25, 1893, in a piece of hardwood-oak, hickory, etc.—timber near Berwyn. The old birds evidently nested here as they were seen at about the same place the previous fall. Unfortunately he shot the adults and one young, and my opportunities for studying this quaint and harmless bird in life are correspondingly lessened if not altogether restricted. The female is in my collection.

HYBIRD FLICKER, *Colaptes auratus-cafer*.—A male secured by me on the 3rd of October, 1894, is referable to this form. The short black malar stripes exhibiting a narrow border of red.

FISH CROW, *Corvus ossifragus*.—Pennock, in his "List of Birds of Chester County, Pa." says "Rare resident if it occurs at all." I have a specimen which was found dead under a spruce tree in this village, March 6, 1891. It was a male, in poor flesh, and probably died from exposure.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO, *Vireo solitarius*.—Quite a flight occurred near Berwyn during the first two weeks of October, 1891. I have not observed it since.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER, *Helminthophila celata*.—October 12, 1894, while watching the movements of a small flock of Juncos which were feeding under some bushes in a thicket, a small bird darted out and across my path, a lucky snap-shot in that direction laid low a fine male.

This is the first recorded capture for our county and less than half-a-dozen have been made in eastern Pennsylvania.

TENNESSEE WARBLER, *Helminthophila peregrina*.—An immature female secured September 19, 1891.

CAPE MAY WARBLER, *Dendroica tigrina*.—On May 11, 1895, I observed a perfect male in a sassafras bush close at hand, a favorable opening gave me an excellent view and I noted every marking that was particularly rich in appearance. A moment for observation, another for it to get a little further from the end of my little 38 caliber collecting gun, a defective cartridge, and it was away before I could reload. It proved to be the find of the year.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH, *Sitta canadensis*.—I took a male of this species October 15, 1889, my only record.

I also desire to record the occurrence of the following rare species, in Newtown township, Delaware county, Pa.

CERULEAN WARBLER, *Dendroica caerulea*.—I secured an immature female from some beech timber September 24, 1889, but unfortunately shot it too badly for preservation entire.

FRANK L. BURNS, *Berwyn, Penna.*

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## THE BIRD CENSUS.

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OBERLIN, OHIO.  
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There could hardly have been a more favorable winter day for taking the census of the birds of Oberlin than the 28th day of December, 1897. The sky was clear, saving a few fleecy clouds in the morning, the temperature ranging from 18° in the morning to 36° at noon; the air still. Just sharp enough to give zest to out-door life without discomfort; just bright enough to give activity to the birds.

At eight o'clock in the morning Mr. W. L. Dawson and the writer prepared to take the bird census of Oberlin within a three-quarter mile limit of the center, excluding one natural grove and two open fields within this limit because they would not fairly represent the true village bird life. It is hardly necessary to say that we were not able to cover the whole ground laid out. However, by hard work we managed to take a fairly accurate census of two-thirds of it. For the benefit of any who may wish to consult the map of the town in BULLETIN 16, I will say that the